

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-17, and 22-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Claims 22-29 have been added. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice. No New matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claim 14 was objected for being redundant. In this response, claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully submitted.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Presby (U.S. Patent No. 5,920,665). In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over Presby. Specifically, independent claim 1 requires a base member having a surface and both the first and second plates are disposed on the same surface of the base member. The second plate is movable on the surface of the base member. Optical fiber structures 35 and 40 of Presby are not disposed on the same surface of a common base member. Applicant submits that none of the cited references teaches or suggests the above limitations. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Similarly, independent claim 12 includes limitations similar to those discussed above. Therefore, for reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claim 12 is patentable over the cited references. The rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, thus include all of the distinct features of the respective independent claim, and therefore, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, are patentable over the cited references.

In addition, as claimed in newly added claims 22-29, the surface of the base member includes a positioning groove to hold a positioning rod to position the first and the second plates via one or more grooves of the plates. Furthermore, the surface of the base member further includes a supporting groove to hold a supporting rod to allow the plates move on the supporting rod. Applicant submits that the above limitations are not taught by the cited references,

individually or in combination. Therefore, addition to those applied to their respective independent claims, for the reasons discussed above, claims 22-29 are patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully submitted.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 2/27, 2003


Kevin G. Shao
Reg. No. 45,095

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300